

# NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 2 NO. 14

AUGUST 28, 1985

## HSNA MEDALS PORTRAITS PRINCESS NAHIENAENA & 150th ANNIVERSARY OF HAWAII SUGAR INDUSTRY



Princess Nahienaena, the sister of Liholiho (Kamehameha II), will be the portrait figure on the obverse of the 1985 HSNA Medal. She was the daughter of Kamehameha the Great and held equal rank with her brother, Kamehameha III, a young prince next in line for the throne.

The reverse of the medal is the 150th anniversary of the Hawaiian sugar industry. The sugar industry began about 1835 in Koloa, Kauai.

The medals will be struck in silver and bronze and will be on sale at the HSNA Coin Show, Queen Kapiolani Hotel, on October 31st, November 1st, 2nd and 3rd.



## KING KALAKAUA, 100th JAPANESE ANNIVERSARY ON HCC WOOD

King David Kalakaua will be the seventh monarch on the obverse of the Honolulu Coin Club's wooden tokens. Known as the Merry Monarch, King Kalakaua brought about the passage of the Reciprocity Treaty, his greatest achievement of his reign. This gave both Hawaii and the United States duty-free trade and brought about an era of prosperity never known in Hawaii. Kalakaua was also known for the building of Iolani Palace, writing the lyrics of "Hawaii Pono", which became the Hawaiian National Anthem, and, of course, the Hawaiian Kalakaua I coins.

The reverse features the 100th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Hawaii (1885-1985).

The wooden tokens will be sold at the Honolulu Coin Club Statehood Show and can also be ordered (25¢ per token and SASE). Address your order to: Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.

## KUPIPI HSNA WOOD HAWAIIAN FISH SERIES NO. 7



The wooden token at the November "Big" HSNA Show at Queen Kapiolani Hotel will be a Damsel fish, the Kupipi (No. 7), a greyish black fish with dark stripes and a black spot near the tail on the upper fin. The Kupipi are found in small reef holes or "pukas" along the Hawaiian shorelines.

The token will be on sale by mail after November 3, 1985 at 25¢ each and SASE. To mail for the tokens, write to The Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.



# COMMEMORATIVE COINS HAWAII

BY IRVING KAM

Since early 1985 the U.S. commemorative coin series has been exciting the various price guides with numerous plus signs and as this article is being prepared, they are still red hot. All grades are being affected with the main focus on the full ticket MS-65's or better. Double "grey" is not unusual. Promotion? Perhaps, but when you pause to really consider their sheer beauty or their low surviving mintages, they are still underpriced. The high/low price cycle of "commems" is not unlike a roller coaster ride and they have drifted too low the past few years. Apparently now seems the right time for this series' value line to correct itself. Even investment houses are touting this area of the market for inclusion in their clients' portfolios. Although the main concern here is the collectability aspect of commemorative coinage, dealers recognize the investment potential and we all know what happens to prices when investors are active.

Generally speaking, the commemorative coin market in Hawaii is pretty much the same as on the mainland, except for the volume. The difficulty of locating a somewhat pristine example is still exceedingly elusive anywhere. It's been a while since I saw a Monroe, Columbian Expo of either year, Lexington-Concord, or California Jubilee that could go all the way. The same for the Washington-Carver or the Booker T. Washington issues. And, these are considered to be the more "common" or most encountered coins. Likewise, the Spanish Trail, Grant, Missouri, Pan Pacific, Fort Vancouver, Alabama, or Hawaiian but with a fancier price tag. Mishandling, misuse, improper cleaning and storage, all attribute to the already low surviving mintages. Add to that the pieces residing in "strong hands" by both collector and investor plus those that happened to make it out of mint bags in a decent state. All these factors, and more, equals scarcity. Pressured along by the current demand, gem commemoratives present a challenge that may be both pleasurable and profitable. They are also some interestingly related material in the form of medals, mailing holders, or brochures that are highly collectable. The holders are scarce and even harder to locate than the coins they originally held. So are the brochures. Medals area a little "easier" to find with the many varied Columbian Exposition offerings leading the way. They make a splendid collection by themselves and often are. Many more tie-ins exist, including stamps, and the possibilities only help to enhance this already fascinating series.

Grading has and always will pose a bit of a problem. Overgraded, over-dipped, washed out, whizzed up coins, are a reality and will always be around. Rub will always be rub. Friction will always be friction. Everything you've read or experienced holds true for this series and I can't expound on the matter any further. Just don't let the many varied designs be intimidating for this is where their beauty lies. Besides, there are some wonderfully informative publications authored by experience and learned numismatists readily available. I also must make men-

tion of a relative new organization called the "Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins" whose members include some of the most knowledgeable people on the subject. They publish a

newsletter called "The Commemorative Trail" and the first hand information is simply superb. Dues are \$12.50 a year and all inquiries may be sent to:

Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins  
912 Bob Wallace Avenue  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

In closing, it appears that when it comes to the better stuff, there seem to be people willing to pay more than the next person within a reasonable range. Hawaii's commemorative coin situation is a "today get—tomorrow no more" kind of deal and if you hesitate to ponder what a gem lists for in any price guide, that coin will only exist in memory.

Aloha! Pau.



## *Coin Club Meetings in the Hawaiian Islands*

### HONOLULU COIN CLUB

Meetings held every 2nd and 4th  
Wednesday of the month. at Susannah  
Wesley Community Center, 1117 Kaili Street.

### BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB

Meetings held every 1st Thursday of the  
month at Po Mai Kai, 929 Ululani Street,  
Hilo.

### KONA COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meetings held 1st Tuesday of the month at  
the First Hawaiian Bank, Meeting Room,  
Kailua, Kona.





# A JAPANESE CENTENNIAL MEDAL

BY  
ALAN FURUKAWA

Exactly 100 years ago, 948 men, women, and children from Japan disembarked the steamer, "City of Tokio", after a 19-day voyage. The price many of them paid for their trip to Hawaii was not monetary but in the anguish of leaving family, friends, and homeland behind. These immigrants were in fact being paid to come to Hawaii. There was no vacation here or anything that hinted of pleasure. They were here to fulfill a work contract and to do otherwise was unthinkable to honor-bound Japanese.

And so they took to the fields and mills of Hawaii's sugar plantations, well aware but uncomplaining of the harsh working conditions. More than one worker has uttered a silent prayer that his or her children and the unborn generations to come will not have to suffer their hardships. Their determination grew stronger, as blistered hands stung with every stroke of the cane knife and soil-breaking hoe, as cracked, weary feet brought them to and from work, as the twin fires of heat and strained muscles ravaged their bodies, as tears, sweat and even blood flowed as one. And from the land that they worked, these immigrants also found their new home. When their obligations to the plantations ended most of them stayed in Hawaii and flocked to the new life that was beckoning. Here was born a legacy, nurtured by hope and dreams, tested by the storms of time, that continues to grow strong and tall, unwavering from a solid century-old foundation.

Incorporated in the design of our commemorative medalion, are two symbols which emphasize this one hundred-year-old saga. The carp banner represents a carp swimming upstream against currents and rocks. The strength, perseverance and pain which must be endured by this feat is reflected only too well in the struggle of the immigrants. The rising sun over Diamond Head depicts the beginning of a new life in Hawaii just as the dawn heralds the start of a new day.

These two symbols combine with the figures to complete the picture and convey the following message:

The immigrant couple pauses from their work to look upon the future. It is not their future they see but that of their children and all of the children to come. Like the persistent carp, the immigrant man gestures, our struggle will mean something. Perhaps a future generation will look back not so much to appreciate our hardship but to understand it. The modern couple, knowing that their

forebearers have given them the opportunity for a better life, hold their child, the newest generation, who reaches up to touch the carp. Although the meaning behind this fish banner will not be clear to the little one until much later, it signifies that the link has been made and will continue.

The crossed flags on the reverse represent two nations coming together a century ago to establish a common bond. The flowers of those two countries are arranged and joined at the bottom and sides to represent the flourishing growth of the Japanese community.

Designed by Alan Furukawa of Honolulu, these medals are available at the Ala Moana Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., Ala Moana Shopping Center.

## HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION COIN SHOW 22ND ANNUAL

QUEEN  
KAPIOLANI HOTEL

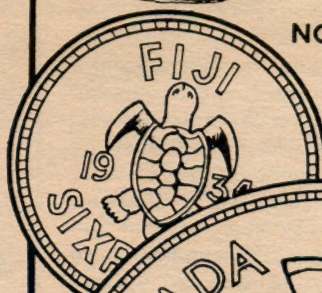
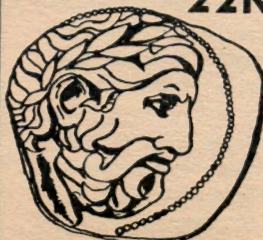
HOURS:  
THURSDAY, OCT. 31, 1985  
12 NOON - 8 PM

FRIDAY - SATURDAY  
NOV 1 - 2 1985 11 AM - 8 PM

SUNDAY NOV. 3, 1985  
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## HCC TRIVIA ANSWERS & WINNERS

These are the answers of the HCC 30th anniversary trivia contest. Answers to questions from the May issue of the *Nu Hou Dala Paa*.

1. 1964;
2. Old Saint Louis College Alumni Club House;
3. Woodrow Wilson;
4. Counterfeiter;
5. Arrows serve to indicate weight changes;
6. Because of reduced postage change;
7. Confederate States of America;
8. U.S., Dominican Republic and Panama;
9. Miss Liberty, \$20 gold piece
10. A half-dime (5 cents).

Winners are: S. Hunt, J.C. Martin, and F. Loo.





# TALKING STORY

BY IRVING KAM

The name Wah Kui Young may or may not quite ring a bell but I'm sure the face will. His constant visibility at all of Honolulu Coin Club's functions, including the Hawaii State Numismatic Association's Annual Convention in November, confirms that he is a very active club member and collector. Wah Kui helps out where he can but his main responsibility is to head the registration table and to handle all the activity there. The experience he brings to this job is an absolute must as his station is the first contact with the public. Working with the security people, making out the schedule of manpower, monitoring the donations for door prizes, answering questions from visitors as well as dealers, are all part of his territory and he does it well. I also recall that at every Honolulu Coin Club meeting I've attended, Wah Kui is the one who takes care of the refreshments and prizes. A task I suspect not many would care to do.

As a collector, his early beginnings consisted of and were limited to odds and ends because of that childhood handicap called lack of funds. Most of us have suffered this affliction and Wah Kui knew he had it when he couldn't put together two bucks for a U.S. Trade dollar. Only double fact. But times get better as forty-two dollars adds an 89-CC to his now increasing collection. He joined the Honolulu Coin Club in 1970 when the meetings were held at the Hawaiian Electric Building on Ward Avenue. At one of these meetings he saw and purchased a large note U.S. currency and has never stopped acquiring "paper" since. The first one was a series of 1891 one dollar note which carries the signatures of Tillman-Morgan and is better known as the Educational issues. Staying mainly within the legal tender of the United States, he more or less specializes in small size currency. United State notes, Federal Reserve notes, gold certificates, silver certificates, North Africa Emergency bills, Hawaii Emergency overprints, errors, all find its way into his collection. Radar sets, original consecutive numbered packs of silver certificates with and without stars, Bicentennial two-dollar first day cancellations, mules, Federal Reserve Bank notes, and on and on. Having completed the Hawaii overprint run, he is now working on the star set. He is having difficulty locating good C.U. pieces of paper and notices a decline of such every year. Despite the general attitude towards this area of the market, Wah Kui feels that the status of paper money collecting is very healthy and bargains are available. He scours the local coin shops and shows searching for new material but admits to having better luck via the mail order route. This he's done by making contacts while attending mainland shows as well as Hawaii's and through the various hobby publications. He recommends that beginning collectors buy crisp uncirculated examples or the best that they can afford. Also, watch for problems such as pin holes, creases and folds, ragged edges, or ironed out notes. An interesting tip I learned from him is that because of the quality of paper used to make today's

currency, ironed out notes will wrinkle back after a while. He also warns that the pricing of errors may be a tough obstacle to get around as there are no price guides that are always up to date. One must be careful and depend on the experience of reputable dealers. Another recommendation he offers is the collection of Federal Reserve notes in the form of district sets, topical collecting, or by signatures. Either way one chooses, "rag picking" is fun and challenging with many viable options. Wah Kui is also interested in and collects Hawaiiana. He has assembled a complete set of H.S.N.A. medals, several sets of Hawaii coinage in various grades, Honolulu Coin Club offerings, and whatever catches his fancy. After all, collecting is unlimited if you use some imagination. (Note: When Wah Kui joined the Honolulu Coin Club, dollars, Hawaiiana, and Kennedy halves were the hot items.)

When I sat down to talk story with him, he had just returned from a 24-day trip to Canada and the East Coast, something he does a few times a year since his retirement in 1973. Having logged in 34 years at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, he spends his non-collecting time in his yard, traveling, or, as he put it, "just go holo holo". Another interesting thing about Wah Kui is that he has never sold a coin for a profit. If he knows someone is looking for a particular item he has duplicates of, he offers it to them at cost. Quite a rare scene today but he likes to help other collectors as well as beginners. As a member of

the Board of Directors for the Honolulu Coin Club, he feels the club is very active right now but needs to generate more interest. The collectors should read and educate themselves as we gain strength through knowledge.

On a final note, we should all give Wah Kui, and the very few people like him, an appreciative and heartfelt Mahalo. Good club members are hard to find and even harder to keep. Why do we necessitate ourselves with non-productive figureheads when all we need are a few Wah Kui Youngs. Thanks, Wah Kui!

Aloha! Pau.

## A FEW MORE AVAILABLE...

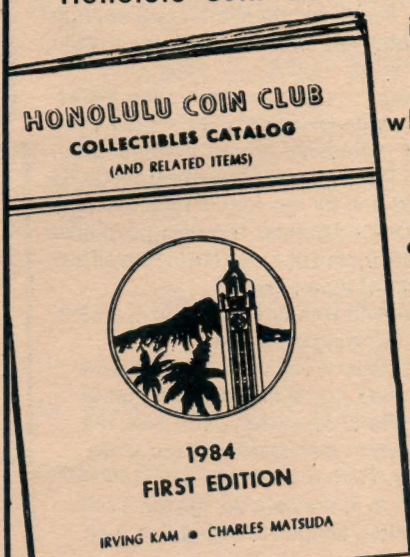
The 1st edition of the new book entitled the "Honolulu Coin Club Collectibles Catalog" is still available.

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## MULES AND MAVERICKS



BY KAZUMA OYAMA

No, this is not a story about cowboys, although the words mules and mavericks usually bring to mind the "Old West". If you are a "Western" fan, you know that mules were prominent animals in the building of the West. Closer to home, the mules were used extensively by the sugar and pineapple plantations before the coming of the tractors. Mules have been featured in songs such as "Mule Train" and TV commercials like "Bo-raxo's Twenty-mule Train". And someone coined a phrase, "Stubborn as a mule".

What is a mule? According to one dictionary, a mule is an "offspring of a donkey and a horse, especially of a jackass and a mare". Flipping through "Coins Questions and Answers" by Carl Allenbaugh (Krause Publications), there is mention of "mule" coins that bear a mismatched obverse and reverse. Also, I've read advertisements for U.S. paper money that mentioned "mule". Here in Honolulu some of the Diamond Parking tokens appear to be mules when compared with illustrations shown in "Feisel's Catalog of Parking Tokens of the World, second edition, 1973". Diamond Parking Inc. is a Seattle, Washington, company with operations in its home state, Oregon, and Hawaii.

The word "maverick" usually refers to unbranded animals and is derived from S. Maverick, a Texas rancher who did not

brand his cattle. The word maverick is used today by token and wooden money collectors when referring to items that cannot be attributed to a definite location. In some instances, an item would be classed as a maverick because only a city is shown without the state. This is understandable because there are several towns and cities with the same name in different states.

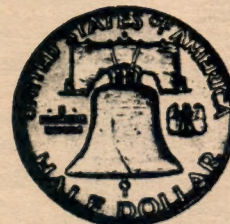
Here in Hawaii, we are fortunate in that most of the town names are of "Hawaiian" origin and therefore unique. However, within the State of Hawaii, there are a few locations with the same or similar names. There is a Waialua on Oahu and Wailua on both Maui and Kauai. I think there is a Waipio on several islands. Although we associate the name Kilauea with the volcano on the island of Hawaii, the school lunch tokens and

the food stamp tokens are from the town of Kilauea, Kauai. However, there is a village called "Volcano" with a U.S. Post Office near the Kilauea volcano. And, if you find anything with "Wahiawa", don't jump to the conclusion and attribute it to Wahiawa, Oahu—it could belong to Wahiawa, Kauai.

## Franklin and the Bell

TEST YOURSELF!! HERE ARE TEN TRIVIA QUESTIONS. CAN YOU ANSWER THEM?

1. Ben Franklin has been known to be one of the two non-president honored on the regular issue US Coin. Who is the other non president on the regular issue?
2. What's written on about the center of the Liberty Bell, that shows vague on most of the specimens?
3. On the crown of the Bell, but not legible on the coin, is a Biblical quotation. What does it say?
4. Who designed the coin?
5. What years was the Franklin Halves minted only in Philadelphia?
6. What coin was Franklin credited with his suggesting the motto, time flies.
7. In 1835 the Liberty Bell crack while tolling for the death of a Chief Justice. Who was he?
8. How many coins are in the Franklin running set?
9. What American bird did Franklin suggested as the American symbol instead of the Eagle?
10. Where can the Liberty Bell be seen today?



Answer in our next issue.





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